

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5
1 1. An article comprising:
2 a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions stored thereon
3 to:
4 execute a discoverable home network transcoder server to communicatively
5 couple to a media server to receive media signals from the media server, to convert
6 the media signals to a format compatible with more than one media renderers, and
7 to transmit the converted signals to the more than one media renderers.
- 1 2. The article of claim 1 wherein the more than one media renderers comprise
2 media renderers selected from the group consisting of a speaker, a video display, a
3 video display/speaker combination, a flat panel monitor, a liquid crystal display
4 screen, an audio speaker, a plasma screen television display, and a high definition
5 television display.
- 1 3. The article of claim 1 wherein the discoverable home network transcoder
2 server further comprises a transrating module.
- 1 4. The article of claim 1 wherein the discoverable home network transcoder
2 server comprises a software module to execute on the media server.

1 5. The article of claim 4 wherein the software module further comprises a
2 transrating module.

1 6. A system comprising:

2 a home network media server that provides signals representing media
3 content;

4 at least one home network media renderer communicatively coupled to the
5 home network media server that receives the signals representing the media
6 content;

7 a discoverable home network transcoder server communicatively coupled to
8 receive the signals representing the media content from the home network media
9 server, to convert the signals representing the media content to a format compatible
10 with the at least one home network media renderer, and to transmit the converted
11 signals to the at least one home network media renderer; and

12 at least one antenna for communicating between the discoverable home
13 network transcoder server and the at least one home network media renderer.

1 7. The system of claim 6 wherein the media content is selected from the group
2 consisting of audio content, video content, and picture content.

1 8. The system of claim 6 wherein the at least one home network media renderer
2 comprises a media renderer selected from the group consisting of a flat panel
3 monitor, a liquid crystal display screen, an audio speaker, a plasma screen television
4 display, and a high definition television display.

1 9. The system of claim 6 wherein the at least one home network media renderer
2 comprises a plurality of media renderers.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the plurality of media renderers comprise media
2 renderers selected from the group consisting of at least one audio speaker, a video
3 display, and a digital display.

1 11. A home network transcoder server comprising:
2 an input for receiving media signals from a media server in the home network;
3 circuitry for transcoding the media signals received at the input;
4 an output for providing transcoded signals back to the media server, the
5 circuitry to transparently convert the media signals to a format compatible with at least
6 one media renderer, and the circuitry to transmit the converted signals to the at least
7 one media renderer.

1 12. The home network transcoder server of claim 11 further comprising a circuitry
2 for transrating the media signals from the media server.

1 13. The home network transcoder server of claim 11 comprising a program for both
2 transcoding and transrating the media signals that are received from the media
3 server.

1 14. The home network transcoder server of claim 11 wherein the circuitry for
2 transcoding media signals received from the media server comprises circuitry from
3 the media server.

1 15. A method comprising:
2 incorporating a home network media renderer by a client of a home network,
3 the client being a module in a web browser having a network application program that
4 supports a first media file format for the home network media renderer;
5 encoding the home network media renderer in the first media file format to
6 support media files of the first media file format;
7 requesting from a media server with the network application program of the
8 client a media file of a second media file format; and
9 recognizing with a discoverable home network transcoder server that the
10 media file is of the second media file format and converting the home network media
11 renderer of the network application program to the second media file format prior to
12 providing the media file to the web browser module of the client.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the client comprises a graphical user interface
2 to contact the media server.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein said incorporating the home network media
2 renderer by the client comprises providing a list of available media renderers and
3 selecting the home network media renderer from the list of available media renderers.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising converting the selected home
2 network media renderer to recognize the first media file format prior to passing the
3 home network media renderer to the client.

1 19. A method comprising:
2 emulating a discoverable home network transcoder server for communicatively
3 coupling to a media server to receive media signals from the media server, to
4 transparently convert the media signals to a format compatible with at least one media
5 renderer, and to transmit the converted signals to the at least one media renderer.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising the transcoder server further
2 emulating a transrating module.